

ES-1 Renewable Portfolio Standard

Assessment: High Priority. Bin B. 17 out of 22 votes.

A renewable portfolio standard (RPS) is a requirement that utilities must supply a certain, fixed percentage of electricity from an eligible renewable energy source. Currently 23 states and Washington D.C. have adopted Renewable Portfolio Standards, with Illinois considering RPS legislation in their current legislative sessions. Some states have expanded that notion to include an environmental portfolio standard (EPS) that allows energy efficiency as an eligible resource. In some cases, utilities can also meet their portfolio requirements by purchasing Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from eligible renewable energy projects. Utah has the potential to develop and import significant amounts of cost-effective renewable energy resources, which could result in significant economic development potential in Utah and surrounding states, increased energy security, and improved environmental quality. This issue will be explored in more detail in the Renewable Energy Initiative (REI) workgroup.